

## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Oversight Committee  
Local CFAC Chairs  
NC Council of Community Programs  
County Managers  
State Facility Directors  
LME Board Chairs  
Advocacy Organizations  
MH/DD/SAS Professional and Stakeholder Organizations  
NC Association of County DSS Directors

Commission for MH/DD/SAS  
State CFAC  
NC Assoc. of County Commissioners  
County Board Chairs  
LME Directors  
DHHS Division Directors  
Provider Organizations

FROM: Craig L. Gray  
Leza Wainwright 

SUBJECT: Special Implementation Update #69 – RFA for 1915 (b)(c) Waiver Expansion

### **“Responsible Change to Achieve Easy Access, Better Quality, Personal Outcomes”**

A request for applications (RFA) to solicit responses from Local Management Entities (LMEs) to participate in the State’s 1915 (b)/(c) waiver is now posted on the DHHS web site.

This RFA is a collaborative effort between the Division of Medical Assistance and the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. This is the first step, of many in the future, to expand from the current 1915 b/c waiver, a pilot project, operated by PBH since 2005, to another LME(s), and then to begin planning for long term consideration of statewide implementation based upon success of the existing 1915 b/c waiver entities at that time. The RFA details the minimum requirements, application process, and contact information for submitting questions. Any LME submitting an application must meet all of the minimum requirements prior to submitting the application.

In general, the time line involves a bidder’s conference to occur in early March, the receipt of RFA applications from interested LMEs are due in April, the completion of the desk review evaluations and onsite review visits in May and June. DHHS plans to announce in July, 2010 which LME(s) have been selected for participation with a tentative start date of January 2011.

There are several web sites available to review RFA and waiver information:

See the DHHS Notice of Funding Availability at:

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/grantopportunities/currentopportunities.htm>

This notice will direct you to both DMA and DMH/DD/SAS web sites where you can find:

- The RFA, in addition to the Application Face Sheet and the Minimum Requirements Checklist.
- The 1915 b/c waiver technical amendments that DHHS submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in December 2009.
- The draft DMH/DD/SAS-LME performance contract.
- The draft DMA-LME performance contract.

These web sites are:

DMH/DD/SAS: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas/waiver/index.htm>

DMA: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/lme/MHWaiver.htm>

We are working to expand avenues for consumer and family involvement as we explore wider use of Medicaid waivers. We have identified consumer volunteers who participated with State staff in reading and commenting on the RFA and will participate in the desk reviews of LMEs applications. We are also developing specific ways to engage the SCAFAC in working on this waiver project. Following the selection of the LME(s) to participate in the next round of waiver implementation, we plan to actively involve local consumers, advocates and families from those catchment areas planning efforts.

Questions should be directed to [RFA.Medicaidwaiver@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:RFA.Medicaidwaiver@dhhs.nc.gov).

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